

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 242110Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5283
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3977

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO AUGUST 21 BOMBING

REFS: (A) SAN SALVADOR 3918, (B) SAN SALVADOR 3938

1. GOES MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL FSCERICO CASTILLO
YANES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE AUGUST 22 ASKING THE CITIZENS
OF EL SALVADOR TO JOIN FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
SUBVERSION. THE MINISTER'S COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS GIVEN
WIDE COVERAGE IN MAQH# ON AUGUST 23, CONDEMNED THE RECENT

TERRORIST ACCUSATIONS AGAINST GOES SECURITY FORCES, THE
EXHORTATIONS FOR VIOLENT ACTION CONTAINED IN MANIFESTOS
ISSUED BY EXTREMIST GROUPS, AND FINALLY THE WIDESPREAD
BOMBINGS OF AUGUST 21. HE ESTATED THAT THESE ACTIONS
CONSTITUTE A CHALLENGE TO COMBAT (RETO) TO THE CIVIC
CONSCIENCE OF ALL SECTORS OF THE NATION AND SHOULD
ALERT THE CITIZENRY TO THE URGENCY OF UNITING THEIR
FORCES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE SOCIAL PEACE OF THE
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SALVADORAN PEOPLE. THE GENERAL REFERRED TO STATEMENTS
IN SOME OF THE TERRORISTS' MANIFESTOS ALLEGING THAT
THE ARMED FORCES AND OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO CREATE
DIVERSIONS. HE STATED THAT SUCH ACCUSATIONS ARE OLD
TACTICS THAT HAVE BEEN USED FREQUENTLY BY THE EXTREMIST
FORCES IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE MORALE OF THE ARMED

FORCES. FORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE AWARE OF THESE METHODS AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER FOLLOWING A DEMOCRATIC TRADITION AND PATRIOTIC CONSCIENCE. REFERRING TO THE NEW TERRORIST ACTS, SPECIFICALLY THE BOMBINGS, THE MINISTER CALLED THEM AN "ARMED REVOLUTION" CARRIED OUT BY GROUPS OF THE EXTREME LEFT WHOSE ACTIONS CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO LEGALLY ESTABLISHED ORDER AND THE UNITY OF THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMON FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE. THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE DEMAGOGIC POSITION TAKEN BY THE SELF-STYLED REVOLUTIONARIES WHO CLAIM TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS BUT WHOSE ACTIONS ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH THEIR WORDS. FINALLY, THE MINISTER ISSUED A CALL FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES WHICH, HE STATED, ARE ORIENTED TO PRESERVING TRANQUILITY, INTERNAL SECURITY, AND LEGAL ACTIONS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NEVERTHELESS INDISPENSABLE TO HAVE THE COOPERATION OF ALL NATIONAL SECTORS IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER CRIMINAL ACTIONS. ONLY AN ATTITUDE OF SOLIDARITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS CITIZENS WOULD ACHIEVE THE DESIRED GOALS OF MAINTAINING THE PEACE, ORDER AND TRANQUILITY OF THE COUNTRY.

2. AUGUST 22 ISSUE OF EL MUNDO QUOTED FROM A
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COMMUNICATION WHICH THEY SAID HAD BEEN SENT TO NEWSPAPER BY THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP) CONCERNING THE AUGUST 21 BOMBINGS. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE BOMBING OPERATION CONSISTED OF PLACING EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IN OR NEAR COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES OF THE "PRO-FASCIST OLIGARCHY." IT THEN LISTED THE LOCATION OF THE BOMBS. EL MUNDO STATED THAT IN ADDITION TO THIS INFORMATION THE ERP COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL MANIFESTO WITH ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOES AND A STATEMENT OF THE ERP'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, WHICH THE PAPER DID NOT PUBLISH. IT DID STATE THAT THE MANIFESTO CONDEMNED CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE PARTY OF NATIONAL CONCILIATION, ORDEN AND THE USC, CLASSIFYING THEM AS ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE SINCE THEY TRY TO GIVE THE DICTATORSHIP A COUNTER-

REVOLUTIONARY BASE. THIS ERP MANIFESTO WAS GIVEN VERY LOW-KEY TREATMENT BY EL MUNDO AND HAS NOT, AS YET, BEEN MENTIONED BY OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

4. DRAFTER: POL-HTMITCHELL; CLEARANCE: CHARGE; DATT.

LUBENSKY

NOTE BY OC/T: SAN SALVADOR 3977(#)AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

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